

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 21, 2002 LB 1095, 1309

this summer. Many people have come into my office, and others of you, and said we do not need three Regional Centers in this state. That's \$15 million, the total budget is about \$45 million; that we can do these things in the communities with adequate funding for community-based programs and we can close a regional center at least. I think that's something we need to pursue. And so if we really want to be serious about cuts, I think there is going to be opportunity next year. Remember that we're working on this fiscal year through June 30th of 2003. So we do have to...if we can get this budget in balance for the next year, we have time to work on those out-years, and we can take some significant cuts program by program, and not do across-the-board cuts...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...that many of you are bothered with. We can go in program by program, and I've given you some suggestions. Thank you, Senator Thompson, that was your list. Those are the things we looked at in our committee and we decided many of those we could not do because of the statutory change that was demanded, knowing we could not work it through the system fast enough. It will take changes. But those are some off the top of our heads, literally, that we think we could take. It'll take 25 votes or at least it'll take a committee to put it out, and it'll take 25 votes on the floor to cut those programs. Medicaid issues will be the same way. There is many. From my viewpoint, LB 1095 that's bogged in committee right now, \$3.5 million, is a relatively easy one to take. It should be taken if you're serious about cutting a program. That's the Medicaid Kids Connection thing that is being proposed. So...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd call the question.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the body is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted who care to? Record.